

Table 9. Poverty estimates by school districts

| DISTRICT NAME | ESTIMATED POPULATION (AGES 5-17) | ESTIMATED NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY (AGES 5-17) | |
|---|---|--|-----|
| Bullhead City School District | 3,877 | 1,754 | 45% |
| Topock Elementary District | 170 | 70 | 41% |
| Peach Springs | 318 | 131 | 41% |
| Wenden Elementary District | 106 | 42 | 40% |
| Salome Consolidated Elementary District | 136 | 53 | 39% |
| Bouse Elementary District | 48 | 18 | 38% |
| Yucca Elementary District | 52 | 20 | 38% |
| Hackberry School District | 111 | 41 | 37% |
| Parker Unified School District | 1,735 | 626 | 36% |
| Colorado City Unified District | 2,622 | 925 | 35% |
| Littlefield Unified District | 646 | 208 | 32% |
| Owens-Whitney Elementary District | 63 | 20 | 32% |
| Kingman Unified School District | 9,627 | 2,537 | 26% |
| Mohave Valley Elementary District | 2,163 | 539 | 25% |
| Valentine Elementary District | 41 | 10 | 24% |
| Lake Havasu Unified District | 7,339 | 1,700 | 23% |
| Quartzsite Elementary District | 309 | 68 | 22% |

Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for School Districts, 2010

Annual unemployment rates are another important indicator of Regional economic vitality. The average unemployment rate in La Paz County in 2011 was 10.3 percent, and 10.4 percent in Mohave County, both higher than the statewide average of 9.2 percent. As shown in the table below, the unemployment in La Paz County continued to increase in 2011, even as Mohave County and the state have begun to decrease after a peak in 2010.

There is substantial variability in unemployment in communities across the region. In some, the unemployment rate has been consistently below the state rate (those highlighted in green below). Bullhead City and Kingman have hovered just above the state average of 9.2%. The Fort Mojave Indian Tribe has been consistently above the state average, but is following a similar

Table 15. Percent Free and Reduced Lunch by School District

| School District Name | Percent Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch |
|---|--|
| Peach Springs District | 100% |
| Hackberry School District | 100% |
| Quartzsite Elementary District | 90% |
| Salome Consolidated Elementary District | 85% |
| Littlefield Unified District | 84% |
| Colorado City Unified District | 83% |
| Bullhead City School District | 81% |
| Topock Elementary District | 81% |
| Bouse Elementary District | 77% |
| Yucca Elementary District | 77% |
| Parker Unified School District | 76% |
| Mohave Valley Elementary District | 69% |
| Owens-Whitney Elementary District | 64% |
| Kingman Unified School District | 62% |
| Wenden Elementary District | 54% |
| Lake Havasu Unified District | 53% |

Source: Arizona Department of Education (2011). Percentage of Free and Reduced Reports, March 2011. Retrieved from: <http://www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/frpercentages>

Note: Data were not available for the Valentine Elementary District.

Educational Indicators

A national report released in early 2012 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation ranked Arizona among the ten states with the lowest score for children's education attainment. This report noted that low levels of adult education are correlated with low levels of overall child well-being.¹³ Fewer than one in three Arizonan adults ages 25 and older hold a Bachelor's degree or higher level of education.¹⁴

Overall, the adult educational attainment indicators for the two counties in the region are much lower than for the state as a whole (Table 17). La Paz and Mohave Counties have less than half the rate of college graduates, and fewer than five percent of births are to women with college degrees. This lower level of educational attainment in the region is linked with its higher poverty levels. In the state as a whole, the poverty rate among those with a college degree was 4 percent, compared to three times that rate (12%) for high school graduates, and six times

¹³ Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2012). Analyzing State Differences in Child Well-being. O'Hare, W., Mather, M., & Dupuis, G.

¹⁴ Arizona Indicators. (Nov. 2011). *Arizona Directions Report 2012: Fostering Data-Driven Dialogue in Public Policy*. Whitsett, A.